



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector to the
Rural District Council of
Buckingham



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For the Year ending 31st December, 1938.

Buckingham,

May, 1939.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my fifteenth report and am glad to tell you the health of the district remains extraordinarily good. This report is in accordance with circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

The deaths are mainly among the elderly people due to senility, cancer and bronchitis. Both the Birth and Death rates are higher than last year. I beg to thank you for your kindness and consideration.

1. General Statistics.

The area of the District is 54,543 acres, exclusive of the area covered with water, which amounts to 197 acres. The population of this District, estimated for mid year 1938 is 7,568.

At the Census of 1931 there were 2,052 inhabited houses, having an average number of 5.019 persons per house.

The rateable value of this District is £31,439, a penny rate bring in £133. This is a greatly reduced value owing to derating and extinguishment of the tithe rent charge. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and as a consequence they lead an outdoor life, which is naturally a good influence on public health,

1a. Rainfall.

The rainfall for the past year amounted to 23.18 inches, this being 2.25 inches below the average. In 1937 the rainfall was 29.07 inches.

The number of rainy days in 1938 was 164 compared with 192 in 1937. The driest month was April with .06 inches whilst the wettest month was December with 3.53 inches. Snow fell on 11 days and there was thunder on 15 days.

2. Extract from Vital Statistics as compiled by Registrar General.

Births	{	Legitimate	110	M. 49	F. 61	}	Birthrate 14.9 per 1,000.
		Illegitimate	3	2	1		
		Total	113	51	62		
Deaths	..	81	45	36	{	Deathrate 10.7 per 1,000	
Crude Death Rate if C.F. 76=8.02.							
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth					}	From Sepsis 0	
						,, other causes 0	
Still births	{	Legitimate		M. 3	F. 3	}	.79 per 1,000 births.
		Illegitimate		0	0		
		Total	..	3	3		
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :							
				M. 2	F. 2		
		Legitimate		2	2		
		Illegitimate		0	0		
		Total	..	2	2		

Legitimate, 4 ; illegitimate, 0 ; total 4 (35.4 per 1,000 births.)

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

„ „ Cancer 15

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

The birth rate and the death rate are higher than last year. Both are about the average for England and Wales which has a birth rate of 15.1 per 1,000 and a death rate of 11.6 per 1,000.

Suicides, 1.

S.F., 6.3 per 1,000 population.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Ages	Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		F.	M.		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever Under 2-	2-	1	0	1	-
	2-5	2	1	3	-
	5-10	6	9	14	-
	10-15	8	12	19	-
	15-20	2	1	3	-
	20-30	2	2	2	-
	45-50	2	-	2	-
Total 48					
4 nursed at home					
1 nursed at Oxford					
43 at Fever Hospital					
Diphtheria 2-	2-	1	-	-	1
Total 1					
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal fever & Pyrexia .. 40-	40-	1	-	1	-
Total 1					
Pneumonia Under 1-	1-	1	-	-	1
	40-60	2	1	-	1
Total 4					
Erysipelas 26-	26-	-	1	-	-
	35-60	1	1	1	-
Total 3					
Other Diseases notifiable locally	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases generally notifiable	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS—Deathrate Nil.

AGE-PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

The infantile mortality for 1938 was 4 compared with 7 for the year 1937. The birth-rate is 14.9 per 1,000 compared with 12.0 per 1,000 for 1937 ; and the death-rate is 10.7 per 1,000 compared with 11.3 per 1,000 for 1937. There were no deaths amongst illegitimate children under 12 months old, no deaths from diarrhoea amongst children under 2 years of age.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with none last year, 1937.

There was 1 case of Diphtheria notified.

Prevention of Blindness—No return necessary under Section 66 of Public Health Act, 1935.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. Causes of Sickness.

There was very little sickness in the District during the year. There were 15 deaths from Cancer during the year, and none from Tuberculosis, and 5 deaths from Pneumonia, including Bronchial Pneumonia. Most of the deaths were due to senility and changes in the arterial system. There were no deaths from accident and violence, and 1 suicide.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of scarlet fever cases notified during the last three years. This coincides with the transfer of cases to the new Fever Hospital at Linslade, but also with the centralization of school children, all senior scholars from the villages now coming to Buckingham Central School in buses.

SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

4. Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General*.—Most of the Villages in this District have District Nurses, either resident or else supplied by the Bucks County Nursing Association. The Resident Nurses are helped by a grant from the County Council and the local authorities, kept up by local subscriptions and fees, and managed by a local committee.

The District Nurse of Buckingham is now affiliated to the Bucks County Association and Queens Nursing Association, and managed by local committee.

There are district nurses at Lillingstone Dayrell, Padbury, Tingewick, Steeple Claydon, Twyford and Westbury.

The local authorities have nothing to do with their management, but give them a subscription.

The resident Nurses are managed by the County Council through the County Nursing Association, and this latter body supervises and controls the work of the Local Nursing Committees.

(b) There is no provision in the District for nursing infectious disease, *e.g.*, measles, &c., in the home.

Midwives.—All the District Nurses do midwifery work, and charge fees which goes to the local committee, as the Nurses are paid a fixed salary. There are five midwives doing District work.

Health visiting is done by the District Nurses.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres in the District. School children come to the District Nurses at fixed times for the treatment of minor ailments.

There are no Tuberculosis or Venereal Clinics.

Venereal cases get gratuitous treatment at Oxford, Northampton and Aylesbury Hospitals.

The County Tuberculosis Medical Officer attends at Buckingham once a month to see patients from the District ; he also visits cases at their homes when necessary.

There is an orthopaedic clinic held in Buckingham monthly under direction of Mr. Girdlestone which children from the district can attend.

Hospitals Provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1.) *Tuberculosis.*—The Sanatorium for Buckinghamshire is situate at Peppard Common, Oxon, and is the joint Sanatorium for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. It is financed by the Bucks County Council jointly with the Berkshire County Council.

(2.) *Maternity.*—There is no Maternity Hospital. Abnormal cases are admitted to Oxford and Buckingham at the discretion of the Doctors. An obstetrical Consultant, W. D. Sturrock, Esq., D.S.O., M.A., M.D., from Oxford can be obtained by applying to the County Medical Officer.

(3.) *Children.*—There is no Hospital for Children alone.

(4.) *Fever.*—The Rural District of Buckingham has no infectious Hospital. All infectious cases are sent to the County Council Fever Hospital at Linslade, Leighton Buzzard.

(5.) There is an Eye Hospital in Oxford for the special treatment of all eye diseases.

(6.) *Other.*—There are no hospitals or nursing homes situated within the District, but patients are sent to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford; The Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury; The Northampton General Hospital and the Buckingham Hospital.

There is no institutional provision in this District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities. (a.) A motor ambulance is stationed in Buckingham town under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association, and is available for the District for non-infectious and accident cases.

(b) Infectious diseases are conveyed by the Linslade Fever Ambulance.

6. Laboratory Work.

There are no arrangements in this District for Pathological or Bacteriological Examinations, but Tubercular sputa are sent to the County Health Office, Aylesbury, and examined by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer. Diphtheria swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association by doctors attending Diphtheria cases. Examination of swabs and Diphtheria antitoxin are paid by this Council. No application has been received for anti-influenza vaccine.

7. Sanitary Administration.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, was adopted on November 23rd, 1889, and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, was adopted on February 28th, 1891. Regulations were made on 17th November, 1906, and are put into force for carrying out the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1889. Bye-laws are also in existence for the following: New streets and buildings, slaughter houses and the laying of water connections.

Diphtheria Immunisation is offered to all children by the School M.O.H. There has been no need at present for Measle Serum. No requests have been made.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—		1938.
(a)	Total	66
(b)	As part of a municipal housing scheme	64

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		105
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1925	
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	26
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	31

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	45
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit : (a) by owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B —Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— (a) by owners	
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit	Nil

New Housing Order.

A tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary department during the year, &c., will be found under the separate report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Your Inspector visits the Cowsheds in the District at regular periods, and pays particular attention to the sanitary conditions and cleanliness. In the event of any suspicious case of tuberculosis occurring in milking cows, your Council calls in a Veterinary Surgeon.

8. Public Health Staff.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector whole time and an assistant.

There have been no cases of Small-pox and no cases of Enteric Fever in the District.

There were no deaths from Measles or Scarlet Fever during the year and Measles which has been prevalent elsewhere did not attack the district.

The birth-rate is 2.90 per 1,000 higher than that of last year. There were no deaths due to child-birth, one case of puerperal pyrexia was notified. The death-rate of children under 1 year old is lower than last year.

I have to thank Mr. Pettipher for the statistics relating to weather, rainfall, etc.

I must thank Mr. Wateridge for his very willing and valuable help at all times.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BRUCE PEARSON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S., ED.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

For the Year ending December 31st, 1938.

BUCKINGHAM,

April 1939.

*To the Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Rural District
Council of Buckingham.*

I have great pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the Sanitary Works carried out in your district during the year 1938.

Housing Regulations.—Housing Inspections were carried out in various parishes and generally speaking the houses were found to be clean. Internal renovation is in practically every case carried out by the tenants themselves. Notices requiring the carrying out of structural and general repairs have been served and in the majority of cases these have been complied with.

A Public Inquiry into Slum Clearance was held on June 23rd, when 7 Clearance Orders were considered, 1 at Beachampton, 3 at Stowe and 3 at Tingewick. These involved 21 houses occupied by 55 people, and in each case the Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health.

Various individual houses have been before the Council during the year and involved were two at Adstock, two at Beachampton, and one at Tingewick. Demolition Orders were made on the house at Tingewick and one at Beachampton whilst in the remaining cases undertakings not to use the buildings for human occupation were accepted from the owners.

Regarding previous Clearance Orders where occupiers of house affected have been re-housed, houses have been demolished. This has been particularly noticeable at Leckhampstead where all the houses affected have been demolished.

New Buildings.—Building by private enterprise was very small during the year in so far as new houses were concerned, only two new houses being constructed. On the other hand a considerable amount of work such as alterations and additions, reconstruction work, the erection of small buildings, etc., was carried out.

This year has been noticeable for the number of Council Houses completed for occupation and those commenced. At the beginning of the year schemes in the parishes of Steeple Claydon, Leckhampstead and Chackmore were completed, the number of houses involved being 41. In the two latter parishes the houses were for re-housing purposes, whilst in the former parish the houses were for re-housing, the abatement of overcrowding and to be let at economic rents. In addition to these houses 23 others were commenced and finished during the year. These were made up as follows :—4 at Addison Road, Steeple Claydon, 2 at Greenwood Place, Steeple Claydon, 2 at Tingewick, 4 at Akeley, 8 at Marsh Gibbon and 3 at Thornborough. 13 of these houses were provided to abate overcrowding, 9 for re-housing purposes and 1 for general needs. Further to these houses 30 others were commenced, these being as follows :—14 at Stowe, 8 at Westbury, 4 at Edgcott, 2 at Twyford and 2 at Charndon. The houses at Stowe, Westbury, Edgcott and Twyford are for re-housing purposes and those at Charndon to abate overcrowding.

All of the buildings were inspected during the various stages of erection to ensure compliance with your Building Byelaws.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—During the year 146 inspections of cowsheds and dairies have been carried out. Many defects were found and notices have been served calling for their abatement. The majority of the notices have been complied with and in some cases the service of these notices has resulted in more extensive alterations being carried out by the owners.

Slaughter Houses.—Attention has been given to the Slaughter Houses and Butcher's Shops in the district during the year but little slaughtering is now carried out. The premises were found to be kept in a clean condition and no notices were found necessary, whilst the meat inspected was found to be of good quality it being necessary for only a small amount to be destroyed.

17 Slaughtermen are registered under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Infectious Disease.—48 cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were notified during the year, this being an increase of six for Scarlet Fever over the previous year. All except four of the patients were removed to the Grove Hospital, whilst the necessary disinfection was carried out, disinfectants being supplied where necessary. As in previous years particular attention has

been paid to contacts engaged in the milk industry, notification being given to any milk factories to which milk was supplied from any premises where a case of infectious disease had occurred.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been necessary regarding Bed Bugs.

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.—Inspections were made of these premises during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Petroleum.—Twenty-three licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum, this number being made up of twenty-two renewal licences and one new licence. One licence was issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium. The methods of storage have not been altered and no points call for special report.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.—The whole of the Sewers in the district have been maintained in good condition. Weather conditions and the usual difficulty of obtaining ground for the disposal of sludge has in some cases delayed the cleaning of ditches and tanks but as far as possible this work has been carried out periodically. Particular attention has been given to works the effluent from which discharges into rivers and streams. Marsh Gibbon has received special attention in this respect, the Thames Conservancy Board having made several visits to these works.

This year has been of importance in so far as schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal are concerned as it has been one during which the Council's first scheme has been carried out. The scheme for Steeple Claydon was commenced during the year and at the end of the year little remained to be done.

At Chackmore a Public Inquiry was held and later the scheme received the Minister of Health's approval. Work on this scheme was commenced in December. Public Inquiries were also held into schemes for the parishes of Padbury and Tingewick.

Water Supplies.—Water Supplies in this district are now under the control of the Bucks Water Board, although maintenance work is carried out by your Council with the authority of the Board. Periodical attention has been given to the supplies which have been maintained as far as possible at a normal level. Some shortage has occurred at Thornborough, Leckhampstead and Akeley

Housing Schemes where for several months during the latter part of the year it was necessary to supply water weekly to temporary storage tanks fixed at the schemes. Fortunately the supplies returned to their normal level before the end of the year.

Difficulty was also experienced at Chackmore. During the carrying out of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme excavations made in the road caused the level of the water in the well to drop considerably, in some cases the wells dried completely up. Temporary means of supply were provided but fortunately with the filling up of the trenches the supplies returned to their normal level.

The Chlorination Plant installed at Steeple Claydon during the year 1937 has proved satisfactory and no complaints as to the condition of the water have been received.

The Bucks Water Board's scheme is progressing favourably and considerable portion of the work of laying the mains in this district having been carried out.

Swimming Pools. There are no swimming pools in this district.

Refuse Collections.—Refuse Collections have been made in twenty-eight parishes during the year, this being an increase of one parish over the previous year, Beachampton having now requested a collection. This service is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants and the quantity of refuse collected at each collection seems to be about the same.

Maids Moreton Refuse Dump is rapidly filling up and it seems that during the next year or so another dump will have to be obtained.

The work of baling the tins after sorting is carried out whilst all scrap metal is sold after each collection.

Some difficulty arose after the last two collections in disposing of the baled tins owing to their being practically no demand. The tins have been stored and it is hoped that it will be possible after the next collection to dispose of them all.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK T. JENNINGS, A.R.SAN.I.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1928

GENERAL.

Number of Inspections for all purposes	..	..	..	2268
Number of Complaints received	..	..	..	36
Nuisances detected without complaint	..	..	..	130
Notices served informal	..	..	..	130
Nuisances abated by persons responsible	..	..	..	129

HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	20
Spouts cleaned and repaired	..	..	..	..	..	51
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	..	13
Dirty Houses cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other house defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	60

DRAINS, W.C.'s, &c.

Drains cleansed, repaired or ventilated	..	..	..	6
New drains laid	..	..	..	35
W.C.'s constructed	..	..	..	30
W.C.'s repaired	..	..	..	10
Earth closets or privies constructed and repaired	..	..	..	—

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Certificates granted	..	..	..	..	2
Wells cleansed and repaired	..	..	..	..	8

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	11
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	56
Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	—
Number of defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	—

REGISTERED SLAUGHTERMEN

..	17
----	----	----	----	----

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	11
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	22
Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	—
Number of defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	—

COWSHEDS.

Number of Cowkeepers on Register—Wholesale	..	..	316
Number of Dairies on Register	..	..	208
Number of inspections	..	..	146
Number of defects found	..	..	29
Number of defects remedied	..	..	27

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	31
Number inspected	..	..	..	..	..	31

VARIOUS.

Visits to infected houses	..	..	..	..	..	60
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	76

E. N. HILLIER and SONS Ltd
Market Hill .. Buckingham
